

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 408**

LCO No. 6217

**AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Section 17a-62a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3       (a) As used in this section:

4       (1) "Homeless youth" means a person [under twenty-one] twenty-  
5       three years of age or younger who is without shelter where  
6       appropriate care and supervision are available and who lacks a fixed,  
7       regular and adequate nighttime residence, including a youth under the  
8       age of eighteen whose parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling  
9       to provide shelter and appropriate care;

10      (2) "Fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence" means a  
11      dwelling at which a person resides on a regular basis that adequately  
12      provides safe shelter, but does not include (A) a publicly or privately  
13      operated institutional shelter designed to provide temporary living  
14      accommodations; (B) transitional housing; (C) a temporary placement  
15      with a peer, friend or family member who has not offered a permanent  
16      residence, residential lease or temporary lodging for more than thirty  
17      days; or (D) a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily  
18      used as a regular sleeping place by human beings; and

19 (3) "Aftercare services" means continued counseling, guidance or  
20 support for not more than six months following the provision of  
21 services.

22 (b) The Department of Housing, in collaboration with the  
23 Department of Children and Families, within available appropriations,  
24 shall establish a program that provides one or more of the following  
25 services for homeless youth: Public outreach, respite housing, and  
26 transitional living services for homeless youth and youth at risk of  
27 homelessness. The [department] Department of Housing may enter  
28 into a contract with nonprofit organizations or municipalities to  
29 implement this section. Such program may have the following  
30 components:

31 (1) A public outreach and drop-in component that provides youth  
32 drop-in centers with walk-in access to crisis intervention and ongoing  
33 supportive services, including one-to-one case management services  
34 on a self-referral basis and public outreach that locates, contacts and  
35 provides information, referrals and services to homeless youth and  
36 youth at risk of homelessness. Such component may include, but need  
37 not be limited to, information, referrals and services for (A) family  
38 reunification services, conflict resolution or mediation counseling; (B)  
39 respite housing, case management aimed at obtaining food, clothing,  
40 medical care or mental health counseling, counseling regarding  
41 violence, prostitution, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases,  
42 HIV and pregnancy, and referrals to agencies that provide support  
43 services to homeless youth and youth at risk of homelessness; (C)  
44 education, employment and independent living skills; (D) aftercare  
45 services; and (E) specialized services for highly vulnerable homeless  
46 youth, including teen parents, sexually exploited youth and youth  
47 with mental illness or developmental disabilities;

48 (2) A respite housing component that provides homeless youth with  
49 referrals and walk-in access to respite care on an emergency basis that  
50 includes voluntary housing, with private shower facilities, beds and at  
51 least one meal each day, and assistance with reunification with family

52 or a legal guardian when required or appropriate. Services provided at  
53 respite housing may include, but need not be limited to, (A) family  
54 reunification services or referral to safe housing; (B) individual, family  
55 and group counseling; (C) assistance in obtaining clothing; (D) access  
56 to medical and dental care and mental health counseling; (E) education  
57 and employment services; (F) recreational activities; (G) case  
58 management, advocacy and referral services; (H) independent living  
59 skills training; and (I) aftercare services and transportation; and

60 (3) A transitional living component that (A) assists homeless youth  
61 in finding and maintaining safe housing, and (B) includes rental  
62 assistance and related supportive services. Such component may  
63 include, but need not be limited to, (i) educational assessment and  
64 referral to educational programs; (ii) career planning, employment, job  
65 skills training and independent living skills training; (iii) job  
66 placement; (iv) budgeting and money management; (v) assistance in  
67 securing housing appropriate to needs and income; (vi) counseling  
68 regarding violence, prostitution, substance abuse, sexually transmitted  
69 diseases and pregnancy, referral for medical services or chemical  
70 dependency treatment; and (vii) parenting skills, self-sufficiency  
71 support services or life skills training and aftercare services.

72 (c) On or before February 1, [2012] 2018, and annually thereafter, the  
73 [Commissioner of Children and Families] Commissioners of Housing  
74 and Children and Families shall submit a report regarding the  
75 program established under subsection (b) of this section, in accordance  
76 with section 11-4a, to the joint standing [committee] committees of the  
77 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to housing  
78 and children. The report shall include recommendations for any  
79 changes to the program to ensure that the best available services are  
80 being delivered to homeless youth and youth at risk of homelessness.  
81 The report shall include key outcome indicators and measures and  
82 shall set benchmarks for evaluating progress in accomplishing the  
83 purposes of subsection (b) of this section.

84 Sec. 2. Section 8-37r of the general statutes is repealed and the

85 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

86 (a) There shall be a Department of Housing, which shall be within  
87 the Department of Economic and Community Development for  
88 administrative purposes only, which shall be the lead agency for all  
89 matters relating to housing. The department head shall be the  
90 Commissioner of Housing, who shall be appointed by the Governor in  
91 accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, with  
92 the powers and duties therein prescribed. Said commissioner shall be  
93 responsible at the state level for all aspects of policy, development,  
94 redevelopment, preservation, maintenance and improvement of  
95 housing and neighborhoods. Said commissioner shall be responsible  
96 for developing strategies to encourage the provision of housing in the  
97 state, including housing for very low, low and moderate income  
98 families.

99 (b) The Department of Housing shall constitute a successor to the  
100 functions, powers and duties of the Department of Economic  
101 Development relating to housing, community development,  
102 redevelopment and urban renewal as set forth in chapters 128, 129,  
103 130, 135 and 136 in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-  
104 38e and 4-39. The Department of Housing is designated a public  
105 housing agency for the purpose of administering the Section 8 existing  
106 certificate program and the housing voucher program pursuant to the  
107 Housing Act of 1937.

108 (c) The commissioner shall, in consultation with the interagency  
109 council on affordable housing established pursuant to section 8-37nnn,  
110 review the organization and delivery of state housing programs and  
111 submit a report with recommendations, in accordance with the  
112 provisions of section 11-4a, not later than January 15, 2013, to the joint  
113 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
114 matters relating to housing and appropriations.

115 (d) Any order or regulation of the Department of Housing or  
116 Department of Economic and Community Development that is in force  
117 on January 1, 2013, shall continue in force and effect as an order or

118 regulation until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

119     (e) On and after July 1, 2017, the Department of Housing shall  
120 constitute a successor department, in accordance with the provisions of  
121 sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39, to the Department of Children and  
122 Families with respect to the homeless youth program as set forth in  
123 section 17a-62a, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-62a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	8-37r